Ten Minutes Advice

TO EVERY

GENTLEMAN

Going to purchaſe

A HORSE

Out of a DEALER, JOCKEY, or GROOM's Stable.

MULTUM IN PARVO.

LONDON:
Printed for the AUTHOR,
AND SOLD BY
JOHN BELL, Bookſeller in the Strand; and
C. ETHERINGTON, in York.
Price One Shilling.

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To the READER.

MY intent of writing the following ſhort TREATISE, is to lay down ſome few remarks, in purchaſing a Horſe, that you may not be ſo liable to fall into thoſe ſnares, which commonly are laid by Dealers, Jockies and Grooms; and if, on peruſing, it ſhould merit your approbation, your recommendation will be the greateſt ſatisfaction to

Your moſt obedient, and much obliged humble ſervant,

S.

To the READER.

Ten Minutes Advice, &c.

WHEN you intend purchaſing a Horſe, I recommend the following rules by way of advice. Take notice for five minutes before you ſee the Horſe out for ſale (no perſon being in the ſtall with him) how he ſtands; if he has any complaint in his fore legs, you will ſee it by his altering the ſituation of them, ſuch as taking up

the one, and ſetting down the other. This denotes his being foundered, or much worked — and will be a direction for you to look at the fore legs, when you ſee him out of the ſtable: If he ſtands covering a good deal of ground from his fore feet, to where he ſets down his hind ones, it ſhews he will get on in his paces.

When ſatisfied, order him out, as with intent to purchaſe, (but above all take this as a golden rule, never ſeem fond of any Horſe before the

owner, be he ever ſo near your deſire, for then you may be ſure to pay an advanced price,) ſtand by him during the time the rider bridles him, rubs him over, and puts on his ſale or ſhew ornaments; and when the Horſe is turned about in the ſtall, never leave any perſon to be the laſt in the ſtable but yourſelf, and if poſſible you ſhou'd be the firſt in, fearing the owner or ſome of his quick emiſſaries ſhou'd *fig* him, a practice too common among Dealers, &c. to make the tail

ſhew as if carried very high, but in reality (after keeping one day) you will find to your coſt, the Horſe will, in appearance, be five pounds worſe.

Thus far I have introduced my obſervations relating to a Horſe in the ſtall.

I now come to the ordering him out: Juſt at the ſtable-door cauſe the man who leads him, to ſtop between light and dark, that you may examine his eyes, nothing being of

greater conſequence. Obſerve whether his eyes are full or not, whether he has a brown, wall, or blue narrow dark eye; the beſt to be coveted is the eye neither ſmall nor large, of a brown hue; yet unleſs the chryſtalline be thoroughly tranſparent, they are not eſteemed good. See his ears are ſet on narrow, and that the front of the bridle does not confine them.

Take care you are not deceived by the marks in his face, as frequently a very good looking ſtar is

made of cat's ſkin, &c. He ſhould have a ſmall head and be deep in his chap; obſerve that his head be ſet well on, and light in the vives. Give me leave to uſe a ſimile, his head ſhould be ſet on like a hat on a peg; on the contrary, ſhould the head be thick ſet on, be aſſured it will cauſe him to toſs up his noſe, for want of wind, which commonly obliges a Horſe to carry his head diſagreeably high, and occaſions a tickliſh mouth.

His age is known by his teeth. As none would chuſe to buy a Horſe for preſent ſervice under five years old, obſerve the ſpeck in his teeth; if juſt to be diſcerned, then he is five years old. At ſix a new tuſh appears, about which grows ſome young fleſh at the bottom; it will be white ſmall and ſharp pointed. At ſeven his teeth are perfectly grown, and the mark in his mouth will be plainly ſeen. At eight the mark is juſt diſcernable, but all his teeth will be full, ſmooth and even. At nine the mark is gone, and his

tuſh will appear yellow and round at top, whereas before it was ſharp.

We now come to ſee the Horſe in the ride, or place where he is ſhewn: It is uſual with Dealers to place him with his fore part, on a higher ground, than his hind part; the reaſon is, that the ſhoulder may appear farther in his back, and make him higher in ſight than in reality. When you find this, cauſe him to be led on level ground; then take notice whether his ſhoulders are upright or lay well into his back,

becauſe an upright ſhoulder'd Horſe is too apt to carry his weight forward, nothing being more diſagreeable, or more unſafe to the rider. When the Dealer places him for your ſight, be ſure you let the fore legs ſtand even, otherwiſe you never can be a proper judge of his ſhoulders; they always want to have the near leg ſtand before the other, by reaſon the ſhoulders in that poſition appear to lay further in his back.

Unleſs you mind the aforeſaid rule, you may eaſily miſtake an up-

right ſhoulder, for one that lays well in the back. Stand before the Horſe, and obſerve his boſom; if too wide, his knees will be the ſame, for if his knees ſtand nearly cloſe and his toes quite in a line, not turning in, nor yet turning out, you may be ſure he will not cut. If he takes his legs up a moderate height ſo as not to clamber, nor yet goes too near the ground, he in all probability will anſwer your end. Obſerve that his joints be let down ſtrong, and his paſterns ſhort; ſee if the upper paſtern joint be any

way puff'd or fleſhy, or have too much hair thereon, for theſe are ſigns of being but half-bred. Horſes whoſe legs are free from them, and are all bone and ſinew are deemed the ſtrongeſt. See his heels are open and broad, with a good grown hoof, of a blackiſh caſt, the white hoof being commonly brittle and apt to crack in ſhoeing. Nothing is more eſſential than a good foot.

I now proceed to the back: Let it be no longer than that the ſaddle may ride eaſy, with the breadth of

three fingers to ſpare. Lay your hand flat on his loins, obſerve they be well coupled, be ſure that he be very deep in his girthing-place, for that ſhews a never-failing ſign of ſtrength. See that he be well ribb'd, but not too home, for that is as bad as not being ribb'd enough: Let his legs behind be let down very ſtrong; and from the thigh-bone to the hock be pretty long, but ſhort from the hock to the paſtern. As to the hind feet, obſerve the ſame rules as laid down for the fore feet. As to the tail, mind it be ſet on

high, and then he will carry it well without nicking.

When thus you have carefully examined your Horſe, let the man run him in hand a gentle trot; you will then ſee whether he is lame: Mind that he leads him at the end of the bridle, for then he cannot deceive you by his being too near the Horſe. Now order him to mount and walk him; ſee he has a good mouth and pulls fair, not too high, nor yet boring down; ſtand behind him, which will enable you to ſee if he

goes narrower before than behind; every Horſe that goes well on his legs, goes in that manner. Obſerve well if he bruſhes by going too cloſe, a certain ſign of his cutting, and tiring in travelling. Avoid that Horſe who throws his legs confuſedly about and croſſes them before, which you cannot diſcern, unleſs you ſtand either before or behind him while he is going along. See that his tail goes too and fro like the pendulum of a clock, which not only denotes blood, but alſo great ſteadineſs in his paces.

As to his trotting, ſee he points his fore legs well, without clambering, nor yet as if he was afraid, and that he throws well in his hind legs, which will enable him to ſupport his trot, and ſhoot as it were his fore part forward; then let him be put into a gentle canter; obſerve he does not fret, but is cool in this pace; let him always be galloped with his right leg foremoſt, a Horſe in that form not only ſhews himſelf beſt, but is much eaſier to the rider.

When he is put out or rated in his gallop, obſerve well if he takes up his legs quick, and daſhes in his haunches, not bringing his hind parts after, as though they did not belong to him, —— and that in all his paces his limbs are free, without the leaſt ſtiffneſs.

This Treatiſe might have been ſwelled to a much greater ſize, but the Author thought it would prove too tedious; he hopes the ſhortneſs of it will not be deemed a fault, but rather a recommendation.